

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION	DOCKET NO. P-851
--	------------------

ORDER ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER AND GRANTING INTERVENTION

(Issued March 18, 2003)

On January 10, 2003, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) filed a petition and exhibits requesting that the Utilities Board (Board) issue a permit to construct, operate, and maintain a new natural gas pipeline. The petition has been identified as Docket No. P-851. The pipeline will consist of 16.3 miles of 10-inch diameter steel pipeline in Lee County, Iowa, with a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1350 psig. The proposed pipeline would deliver natural gas from Atmos' South Fort Madison District Metering and Regulator Station to the Roquette America, Inc. (Roquette), processing facility in Keokuk, Iowa. Roquette operates a corn wet-milling processing facility in Keokuk and is proposing to construct a cogeneration facility that will supply electricity to the processing facility.

By letters dated January 29, 2003, and February 19, 2003, Board staff informed Atmos of several deficiencies in the petition. Atmos filed revisions to the petition and exhibits on February 10, 2003, February 25, 2003, and March 4, 2003. Board staff completed a report concerning the pipeline petition and project on March 10, 2003.

Iowa Code § 479.7 (2003) requires the Board to set a hearing in a pipeline proceeding upon the filing of a petition. Iowa Code § 479.8 requires the hearing be

set in the county seat of the county located at midpoint of the proposed pipeline where the pipeline will be operating under pressure exceeding 150 psig and will exceed five miles in length. The Board finds that the petition and exhibits substantially meet procedural requirements and the Board will assign the petition to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and set a hearing date.

On March 11, 2003, Roquette filed a petition for intervention in this proceeding. Roquette is the company proposing to construct a cogeneration facility to be supplied natural gas by the proposed pipeline. The Board finds that Roquette meets the requirements of 199 IAC 7.2(7)"d"(1) and will be granted intervention in this proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1 Docket No. P-851 is assigned to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and exercise the authority provided in 199 IAC 7.1(4).

2. The petition to intervene filed by Roquette America, Inc., on March 11, 2003, is granted.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Sharon Mayer
Executive Secretary, Assistant to

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 18th day of March, 2003.